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## PRESS RELEASE

### **MEPs want to participate as observers in negotiations of passenger data agreement with USA**

**MEPs in the Civil Liberties Committee adopted today a draft recommendation to the Council in which they demand the statute of observers during the negotiations for the new EU's agreement with the United States on the transfer of personal data by airlines flying to America. The text also claims that this agreement should expire in November 2007. After that, hope members, the Parliament could enjoy full co-decision rights to deal with future agreements on passenger name records (PNR).**

Following the decision of the European Court of Justice to annul the existing agreement on PNR by the 30 September this year, the members addressed a recommendation to the Council in which they agreed that a new deal should be reached with the US government before that date to avoid "*a legal lacuna at European level*" for the transfer of passenger data.

The negotiation strategy proposed by the rapporteur Sophie In't Veld (ALDE, NL) and supported by LIBE Committee today in its recommendation is based on a two steps procedure: on one hand, the EU should reach a new short-term international agreement to cover the period between 1st October 2006 and November 2007 (which is the time originally covered by the US/EU agreement annulled by the Court), to which negotiations MEPs should be invited as observers. On the other hand, for the medium and long term, MEPs proposed "*a more coherent approach (...) towards the exchange of passenger data*". By the time of the review of the agreement in 2007, the Parliament hopes to enjoy co-decision rights on PNR issues so they can ensure that future agreements are more adequate to the data protection safeguards always defended by the members.

Finally, MEPs propose a parliamentary dialogue this year with EU, US, Canada and Australian parliamentarians, in preparation of that review.

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